DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Ltd., as mentioned here, situated in Visakhapatnam, has been merged with the BHEL, and the whole industry has been revived. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the present situation of the payment of salaries of these employees and other things. This is one of the biggest and finest institutions of the country.

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Sir, so far as this Company, situated in Visakhapatnam, is concerned, it has now been taken over as a sister company of BHEL, and that Board has also been taken over. Because there was a problem of giving some new salary package, and that was pending for long, I am told now that the BHEL Board has taken a decision, and very soon, the new pay-scales will be given to the workers in the factory. I don't think, they will have any more problems because BHEL is a very strong Company; that can take care of the employees working in that particular Unit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.245. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will you please consider my request?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: What about my request for having a Half-an-Hour Discussion? Sir, I request you to consider that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will take it up, and this will be discussed in the meeting. Q.245, please.

Vizhinjam Container Transshipment Project

*245. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:††
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the impasse into which the Vizhinjam Container Transshipment Project has fallen following the revocation of its tender bid by the Hyderabad based Lanco Kondapally led consortium;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any plan to intervene and find a way out to complete the project within three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) to (d) Vizhinjam Port is a Non-Major Port. As per Indian Ports Act, 1908, Non-Major Ports are under the overall jurisdiction of the respective State Governments. The responsibility for development of Vizhinjam Port, therefore, vests with the Government of Kerala.

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††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M.P. Achuthan.

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Sir, Vizhinjam Port has all the facilities to develop into a major port in India. This is a unique project, Container Transhipment Project, because it is nearer the international maritime route, and it can cater to the needs of container transhipment. Now, we are depending on the Ports like Dubai, Colombo, in Singapore, for container.... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Sir, my question is this. In the written answer, it is said that Vizhinjam Port is a Non-Major Port. Because there is every possibility of developing this Vizhinjam Port into a "Major Port", will the Government consider upgrading the Vizhinjam Port in order to include this Port in the category of "Major Ports"?

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRI G.K. VASAN: Sir, there are 12 major ports under the control of the Central Government and, as per the latest information from the maritime States, there are about 200 non-major ports in the country under the control of the respective State Governments. The Vizhinjam port comes under the non-major ports which is under the control of the Government of Kerala.

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Sir, my second supplementary is that when the hon. Defence Minister, Shri A. K. Antony, was the Chief Minister of Kerala, the State Government made a proposal to include this port in the major ports to be taken up by the Central Government. Now, the problem is that the State Government has initiated steps to develop the port, but the bidders have given it up. There is now complete stagnation in the work of this project. There is a proposal that it must be included in major ports as a joint venture of the State Government and the Central Government. I would like to know whether the Minister will consider the proposal to develop the Vizhinjam port as a Centre-State joint venture.

SHRI G. K. VASAN: Sir, at this stage, I would say that this is a hypothetical question since there is no proposal from the Government of Kerala.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Thank you, Sir. Well, I agree that Vizhinjam port is a non-major port. But this is a port of strategic importance and also of very great potential. The State Government is trying its best to develop it into a major first-class port. But a lot of impediments like technical, financial, etc., are there and, of course, there is the inept handling by the State Government. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is prepared to give technical and financial assistance for the development of the port. Of course, it being a non-major port, the State Government will develop it. But why doesn't the Central Government consider giving technical and financial assistance for the development of the port?

SHRI G.K. VASAN: Sir, the Deepwater Container Transshipment Port at Vizhinjam is proposed to be developed on PPP basis at an estimated cost of 53.4 billion dollars. The capacity of the Vizhinjam port is expected to be more than 5 million TEU *per annum*. But I would like to tell the Member that when it concerns the State Government and when there is no proposal from the State Government, unless there is a proposal, we can't talk about the subject right now at this stage.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, according to me, minor ports have got tremendous potentiality throughout the length and breadth of the country. The Minister may try to say that it is within the purview of the States and he has nothing to do with it. What I am trying to say, in conformity with the views expressed by Kurienji, is that this is a problem which can't be handled by the concerned State. On the other hand, they need assistance in terms of financial allocation, technical advice, etc. So far, the Central Government does not take into account any of these aspects. At least, hereafter, taking into account the tremendous potentiality available, will you come into the picture and do something in terms of allocation, in terms of advice, etc.? Can you do something?

SHRI G.K. VASAN: Sir, I would like to tell the Member, through you, that though development of minor ports rests with the respective State Governments, interaction with maritime States is being held under a forum chaired by the Union Minister, namely, Maritime State Development Council. I would also like to tell the hon. Member that as per the Indian Ports Act, 1908, non-major ports are under the overall jurisdiction of the respective State Governments.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, our country has got a very vast coastline and we have also got many major rivers. Has the Government got any proposal? In Maharashtra, in Mumbai, we had the Mumbai port. Then Nhava Sheva was developed. The Nhava Sheva port is now congested. The Ratnagiri port is another port which was used very extensively during Shivaji's time. Similarly, there are many minor ports. Has the Government got any proposal to develop these minor ports into major ports and assist the State Governments? They can't do it on their own, as Prof. Kurien has also said. There are many ports, not just one. We have many ports and it will be cheaper to transport through water. All over the world, we are using water more than roads.

SHRI G.K. VASAN: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that financial assistance is given to non-major ports by way of grant for conducting detailed study. No other form of assistance is provided. But all this has to be mooted by the State Government.

निजी विद्यालयों में गरीब छात्रों के लिए कोटा

*246. **श्री भगवती सिंह** :††
श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र:

क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार द्वारा अनुमोदित किए जाने वाले शिक्षा के अधिकार संबंधी प्रस्तावित विधेयक में गरीब छात्रों के लिए बड़े निजी विद्यालयों में पच्चीस प्रतिशत प्रवेश का प्रावधान है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार के पास गरीब छात्रों को प्रवेश देने का कोटा पूरा कर लेने वाले निजी विद्यालयों की संख्या के संबंध में कोई आंकड़े हैं; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

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††सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री भगवती सिंह द्वारा पूछा गया।